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Building.

War Sketches by a Northern Ranger.
—A Scout's Adventure.

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one fellow, and with my bayonet transfixed
another to the soft sandy rock, against
which he fell, and perceived none of my
party at his side. But the thick smoke
and rapid falling darkness that now reigned
in conjunction with yells, shouts and
groans, the surrounding gloom, made all
invisible beyond the length of the arm.

At that instant I felt a sudden pang,
a disfigurement, like death, came
over me; I clutched wildly at the sulphur-
ous air, reeled, and fell.

When I recovered my senses, I discov-
ered that I was lying on my side, bleed-
ing slightly from a flesh wound in the
thigh. I had bled profusely, before re-
covering, for I was saturated in half con-
sciousness, raising myself on my elbow,
I looked round for my comrades.

The moon was shining with all the soft-
ness of her beauty on the spot. I counted
five bodies lying within a compass of
almost as many yards. I endeavored to
discover their uniforms, but could not at
that distance. I arose slowly, and with
much difficulty, reached the nearest.

He was dead, with a blue hole in the center
of his forehead, through which the bullet
had passed, and the blood still slowly
oozed. I crawled to the next one; he too
was past all earthly aid. So on to the
third, fourth and fifth. The bullet had
done its full work on all. These had been
a few hours before, my comrades, eager
to deal destruction upon foes, and care-
less of the fate that met them. I was the
sixth and last of the party.

But where was the enemy, or what had
been the enemy? I heard no sound, and
the moon-light falling directly upon the
dead men, and the gray, weed-like rocks,
produced an effect that was sickening and
horrible. I remembered the man I had
slain. I searched for his body, but it was
gone. I searched for others of the ene-
my, but all had disappeared. There were
no dead left on the battle-ground but the
five fallen scouts. Yet, that others had
perished there, was obvious from the
blood lying in little pools among the rocks,
behind which the ambush-foes had
poured upon us his deadly fire.

My wound began to bleed afresh, which
brought a faintness upon me, and I sank
to the earth. A burning thirst was con-
suming me, and I groined in agony.

After a little while I made another effort
to rise, but failed; and then falling back
as easily as possible, I yielded to my fate.

I thought of past days, when, in early
youth, no cry for blood had yet awakened
that inherent ferocity that lurks unseen
in the heart of man, until the fearful scent
arouses it as it does the bloodhounds, and
it springs forth with a swiftness that ap-
peals and a strength that desolates.

A CAPTIVE.
My captor was broken by the sound of
a rifle. He came that of approaching
a new life. It drew nearer a new life
than a virgin spring. The most
delicious to whom the torture of a cap-
tive is an unapproachable delight, ad-
vancing upon me with the menace of a
demoniac, would at that moment have
been welcome as an angel of light in com-
parison to the loneliness—the utter woe
of the dismal glen, and its bloody and
unburied dead.

In a few moments a dozen armed men
were on the spot leaning on their rifles
and gazing round upon the dead. Some
stopped and examined the bodies with
careless scrutiny; others merely stirred
them with the foot or turned them over
with the muzzles of their guns, with the
brutal indifference bloodshed engenders
in the heart.

"They're dead. Let them rot!" said
one who appeared to be the leader of the
party.

"Not all dead," said I.

Had a voice actually issued from
a tomb as mine undoubtedly seemed to do
its effect would not have been much more
startling. Each man, for an instant, seem-
ed changed into a statue. Then the whole
group made a simultaneous movement
towards me.

"That's the fellow that bayoneted
like," exclaimed one of them, cocking his
revolver and thrusting the muzzle be-
tween my teeth.

In another instant I should have been
in eternity, but for the sudden jerking
back of my would-be destroyer's arm by
one of his comrades, who calmly remark-
ed: "If he's got through the rough work he
hasn't any more to do. We'll kill the poor
devil now." With a muttered curse the
ruffian replaced his belt and withdrew.

"Where are you hurt?" inquired he
whose interference had just saved me.
"Can't you get up? I told him I had been
shot in the hip, and was dying of thirst.
Here he called a member of the party to
him, and taking from his hand a canteen,
poured some of its contents—brandy—into
water—down my throat. My wound had
entirely stopped bleeding, but my whole
side was stiff and painful. With much
difficulty I rose to my feet, and by the
aid of two of my captors, for such they
were, managed to move along with the
band, through what appeared a cleft in the
mountain, pursuing a new path to that I
had hitherto traversed in the company of
those who had fallen, and whom I was
now leaving behind me forever.

For some time we followed this road,
running at the base of two declivities al-
most perpendicular, whose dizzy summits
I could not see, and whose rugged sides
of gray, at intervals were shining coldly
beneath some stray gleam of moonlight,
that even in that cavernous pass, found
its way and smiled amid the gloom, like
the good glance of a visiting angel.

Suddenly we emerged from this gloomy
defile, and found ourselves in what appear-
ed almost a level country. Here—where
some tents were pitched—we halted, and
I was a prisoner in a guerrilla camp.

A week elapsed and I had recovered
from my wounds. The chief of the party
who had captured me, offered me my
liberty on condition that I gave my parol
not to bear arms against the rebels a-
gain during twelve months. This I had

sworn never to do in the event of my be-
coming a prisoner to the Confederate ar-
my. I was equally resolved now to ad-
here to my oath.

From that moment I was closely guard-
ed, with the vigilance known but to an
angry foe. No sleepless sentinel ever
langued with heavy limb and weary eye.
In week, watchfulness, near the rugged
cave, where I lay. But, sleeping or
waking, some hawk-eyed watcher kept
guard at my side, marking all my outgo-
ings and incomings.

At that camp was another prisoner be-
side myself; a miserable creature, appar-
ently only awaiting the certain death that
a caprice of a merciless band would, in
some unexpected moment hurl upon his
head, and whom nothing but the same
caprice permitted still to move upon this
earth a living thing. This wretch had
been captured some days after I had,
in the act of robbing the dead after a skir-
mish. His crime in the eye of the sold-
ier, is a deadly sin. He is the pariah of
his class. A valiant too foul for an hon-
est shot, from whose blood the bright
steel would receive a disgrace deeper than
his sin. A thing too worthless to crush
out suddenly, with stone or club, as a
reptile should, and the contaminated
weapon then flung from the hand forever.

He cringed to his captors, and they
drove him from them with kicks and cur-
ses, and when he flung they spat upon
him.

AN ESCAPE.
One night, after unwearied watchful-
ness and ceaseless planning, I broke from
the bondage that held me. The night
was cloudy and threatening to rain. I
had heard enough from my captors to
know that a detachment of Northern
troops was encamped to the eastward,
within five miles of us. This detachment
I resolved to reach or die. From what
I had learned among the guerrillas, I felt
assured I could with little difficulty find
the encampment. After crawling through
a thicket that grew by the side of the road
old and grass-wood, running nearly east
and west for at least two miles, I emerg-
ed from it into the road, sweating and
bleeding, but my clothes torn to frag-
ments, pausing and weary, I had taken
my bearings from the few stars that glim-
mered through the clouds in the nebulous
spots of the heavens, and was about to
start along the road in the easterly direc-
tion, when a man leaped from the thicket
and the thief of the battlefield, and the
plunderer of the dead, stood by my side.

"On, on!" he exclaimed in hoarse and
excited tones, pointing along the road in
the direction I was about to take, "the
troops are following." He shook with fear,
and I pitied him. Disregard of his presence, too
was lessened by a sense of the common
danger. Before I could speak he dashed
past me along the road. I followed, and
thus we fled for more than twenty minutes
a little ahead of me during the whole
time. We reached a narrow, unfinished
bridge, stretching from high banks across
a stream. We began to cross the bridge,
but our progress was much impeded and
even endangered, as our only stepping
points were from beam to beam and plank
to plank most of them loose and rotten
and at uneven distances. The bridge
was supported by huge piles set in the
river, whose sudden waters we were able
to distinguish rushing far beneath us. Yet
the river seemed shallow there, for white
breakers curled round the rocks we could
detect also. Onward we went. I was
now in advance some dozen yards. All
before us, beyond twenty feet, was lost in
gloom, behind, the same darkness impos-
sible at the same distance. Yet on we
pressed from one rotten, shaking timber
to another. Suddenly loud shouts in the
rear proclaimed the pursuing foe. These
were followed by the sharp ring of rifles,
and a fearful shriek from my companion.
I stopped and turned. He called on me,
for the "love of Heaven, to help him." I
returned some little distance and found
him clinging, about a couple of feet above
the cross-pieces, to a narrow iron bar that
ran from one of the piles to another. He
was struggling wildly. "How is it?"
I asked, as I stopped to aid him. But I
discovered my assistance valueless, un-
less I could place my foot on the bar,
and leaning with my breast upon one of
the timbers, reach over both hands and
grasp him by the collar. As I was mak-
ing this essay, the moon broke fully up-
on us, and I met his upturned pallid face.
His teeth were set. His bloodless lips
drawn from them with a rigidity that
left them completely bare. His eyes
were staring from their sockets and his
form trembled so as to shake the last hold
to which he clung.

"One of your bullets," he hissed be-
tween his teeth, "has smashed my ankle.
I am going!" His hold relaxed, another
terrible shriek rang through the night
air, and he fell crashing among the ju-
tling rocks below; his blood mingling with
the pure element that eddied round them.

I again pursued my way along the
bridge alone. Many a bullet whistled
past me from my inveterate but bewildered
foes, and many a narrow escape I ran
of being hurled into the dark river, or of
impaling upon the half-rottened
rocks. But one such death suffered for
this night. At length I reached the other
side, thankful but exhausted. Still,
with unabated speed I pursued my way,
until the challenge of a sentinel stopped
further progress. I had reached one of
the pickets of the detachment for which
I was bound—our gallant Northerners. I
was met, and a free man again.

Morrisville, September, 1861.

Rev. W. B. Stevens, D. D., rector
of St. Andrew's Church, Philadelphia,

has been elected assistant bishop of Penn-
sylvania by a vote of 85 to 60 for Dr.
Leeds of St. Peter's Church in the same
city. The laity concurred by a vote of
82 parishes to 37.

Grown from the British Lyceum—Impor-
tant Diplomatic Correspondence.
Lord Lyons to Mr. Seward.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.

Sir—Her Majesty's Government were
much concerned to find that two British
subjects, Mr. Patrick and Mr. Rahming,
had been subject to arbitrary arrest; and
although they had learned from a telegraph-
ic dispatch from me that Mr. Patrick
had been released, they could not
regard the matter as one requiring their
very serious consideration.

Her Majesty's Government perceive
that when British subjects as well as A-
merican citizens are arrested they are im-
mediately transferred to a military prison
and that the military authorities refuse to
pay obedience to a writ of habeas corpus.

Her Majesty's Government conceive
that this practice is directly opposed to
the maxim of the Constitution of the United
States, "that no person shall be deprived
of life, liberty or property, without due
process of law."

Her Majesty's Government are willing,
however, to make every allowance for the
hard necessities of a time of internal trou-
ble; and they would not have been sur-
prised if the ordinary securities of person-
al liberty had been temporarily suspended,
nor would they have complained if British
subjects falling under suspicion had
suffered from the consequences of that
suspension.

But it does not appear that Congress
has sanctioned in this respect any de-
parture from the due course of law; and it
is in the circumstances that the law officers
of the Crown have advised her Majesty's
Government that the arbitrary arrests of
British subjects are illegal.

So far as appears to her Majesty's Gov-
ernment, the Secretary of State of the United
States exercises, upon the reports of
spies and informers, the power of depriving
British subjects of their liberty, of retain-
ing them in prison, or liberating them,
by his own will and pleasure.

Her Majesty's Government cannot but
regard this despotic and arbitrary power
as inconsistent with the Constitution of
the United States, and at variance with
the treaties of amity subsisting between
the two nations, and as tending to prevent
the resort of British subjects to the United
States for purposes of trade and indus-
try.

Her Majesty's Government have there-
fore felt themselves bound to instruct me
to remonstrate against such irregular pro-
ceedings, and to say that, in their opinion
the authority of Congress is necessary in
order to justify the arbitrary arrest and
imprisonment of British subjects.

I have the honor to bear, with the
highest consideration, your most obedient
and humble servant.

LIONS.
The Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Etc.

Mr. Seward to Lord Lyons.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 14, 1861.

My Lord—I have the honor to acknow-
ledge your lordship's note of the present
date.

In that paper you inform me that the
British Government is much concerned
to find that two British subjects, Mr. Pa-
trick and Mr. Rahming, have been brot-
ten arbitrary arrest, and that, although
her Majesty's Ministers have been advised
by you of the release of Mr. Patrick,
yet they cannot but regard the matter as
requiring the very serious consideration
of their Government.

You further inform me that her Majes-
ty's Government perceive that when Brit-
ish subjects, as well as American citi-
zens, are arrested, they are transferred to
a military prison, and that the military au-
thorities refuse to pay obedience to a writ
of habeas corpus.

You add, that her Majesty's Govern-
ment conceive that this practice is direct-
ly opposed to the maxim of the Constitu-
tion of the United States, that no person
shall be deprived of life, liberty or prop-
erty, without due process of law. I then
observe that her Majesty's Govern-
ment are, nevertheless, willing to make
every allowance for the hard necessities
of a time of internal trouble, and they
would not have been surprised if the ordi-
nary securities of personal liberty had
been temporarily suspended, nor would
they have complained if British subjects,
falling under suspicion, had suffered from
the consequences of that suspension.

But that it does not appear that Congress
sanctioned in this respect, any departure
from the due course of law, and it is in
these circumstances that the law officers
of the crown have advised her Majesty's
Government that the arrests of British
subjects are illegal.

You remark further, that so far as ap-
pears to her Majesty's Government, the
Secretary of State for the United States
exercises, upon the report of spies, and
assumes the power of depriving British
subjects of their liberty, or liberating them,
by his own will and pleasure; and you in-
form me that her Majesty's Government
cannot but regard this despotic and arbi-
trary power as inconsistent with the Con-
stitution of the United States, as at vari-
ance with the treaties of amity subsisting
between the two nations, and as tending
to prevent the resort of British subjects
to the United States for the purposes of
trade and industry. You conclude with
informing me that upon these grounds
her Majesty's Government have felt
bound to instruct you to remonstrate
against such irregular proceedings, and to
say that, in their opinion, the authority
of Congress is necessary in order to jus-
tify the arbitrary arrest and imprison-
ment of British subjects.

The facts in regard to the persons nam-
ed in your note are as follows:
Communications from the regular police
of the country to the Executive at Wash-
ington, showed that disloyal persons in
the State of Alabama were conducting
treasonable correspondence with Confed-
erate, British subjects and American citi-
zens, in Europe, aimed at the overthrow
of the Federal Union by armed forces re-

usually in the field and besieging the cap-
ital of the United States. A portion of
this correspondence which was intercepted
was addressed to the firm of Smith & Pa-
trick, brokers, long established and doing
business in the city of New York. It ap-
peared that this firm had a branch in Mo-
bile; that the partner, Smith, is a disloyal
citizen of the United States, and that he
was in Europe when the treasonable pa-
pers were sent from Mobile, addressed
through the house of Smith & Patrick, in
New York. On receiving the information,
William Patrick was arrested and com-
mitted to military custody at Fort La-
fayette, by an order of the Secretary of
War of the United States, addressed to
the police of the city of New York. These
proceedings took place on the 28th of
August last.

Representations were thereupon made
to the Secretary of State by friends of Mr.
Patrick, to the effect that notwithstanding
his associations he was personally loyal to
this Government, and that he was ig-
norant of the treasonable nature of the
correspondence which was being carried
on through the mercantile house of which
he was a member. Directions were there-
upon given by the Secretary of State to a
proper agent to inquire into the correct-
ness of the facts thus presented, and this
inquiry resulted in the establishment of
their truth. Mr. William Patrick was
thereupon promptly released from custody
by direction of the Secretary of State.

On the second day of September, the
Superintendent of Police, in the city of
New York, informed the Secretary of
State, by telegraph, that he had under
arrest, J. C. Rahming, who had just ar-
rived from Nassau, where he had attempt-
ed to induce the owners of the schooner
Arctic to take cannon to Wilmington, in
North Carolina, for the use of the rebels,
and inquired what he should do with the
prisoner. J. C. Rahming was thereupon
committed into military custody at Fort
Lafayette, under a mandate from the Sec-
retary of State. This commitment was
made on the second day of September.

On the seventeenth day of that month
this prisoner, after due inquiry, was re-
leased from custody, on his executing a
bond in the penalty of two thousand five
hundred dollars, with a condition that he
should hereafter bear true allegiance to
the United States, and do no act hostile
or injurious to them while remaining un-
der their protection.

I have to regret that, after so long an
official intercourse between the Govern-
ment of the United States and Great Brit-
ain, it should be necessary now to inform
her Majesty's Ministers that all execu-
tive proceedings, whether of the Secre-
tary of War or of the Secretary of State, are
unless disavowed or revoked by the Pres-
ident, proceedings of the President of the
United States.

Certainly it is not necessary to an-
nounce to the British Government now
that an insurrection, attended by civil and
even social war, was existing in the United
States when the proceedings which I
have thus related took place. But it does
seem necessary to state, for the informa-
tion of that Government, that Congress is
by the Constitution invested by no execu-
tive power or responsibility whatever,
and, on the contrary, that the President
of the United States is, by the Constitu-
tion and laws, invested with the whole
executive power of the Government, and
charged with the supreme direction of all
municipal or ministerial civil agents, as
well as of the whole land and naval forces
of the Union, and that, invested with
these ample powers, he is charged by the
Constitution and laws with the absolute
duty of suppressing insurrection as well
as preventing and repelling invasion; and
that for these purposes he is constitutionally
exercised the right of suspending the writ
of habeas corpus, whenever and where-
ever, and in whatever extent the public
safety, endangered by treason or invasion
in arms, in his judgment requires.

The proceedings of which the British
Government complain were taken upon
information conveyed to the President by
legal police authorities of the country,
and they were not instituted until after
he had suspended the great writ of Free-
dom in just the extent that in view of the
perils of the State he deemed necessary.

For the exercise of that discretion he, as
his advisers, among whom are the Secre-
tary of War and Secretary of State, is
responsible, by law, before the highest
judicial tribunal of the Republic, and am-
enable, also, to the judgment of his coun-
trymen, and the enlightened opinion of
the civilized world.

A candid admission, contained in your
letter, relieves me of any necessity for
showing that the two persons named there-
in were neither known nor supposed to
be British subjects when the proceedings
occurred, and that in every case, subject
of her Majesty, residing in the United
States, and under their protection, are
treated during the present troubles, in the
same manner, and with no greater or less
rigor than American citizens.

The military prison which was used
for the temporary detention of the sus-
pected parties is a fort constructed and
garrisoned for the public defense. The
military officer charged with their custody
has declined to pay obedience to the writ
of habeas corpus, but the refusal was
made in obedience to an express direction
of the President, in the exercise of his
functions as Commander-in-Chief of all
the land and naval forces of the United
States. Although it is not very impor-
tant, it certainly is not irrelevant to add
that, so far as I am informed, no writ
of habeas corpus was attempted to be served
or was even used out or applied for in be-
half of either of the persons named; al-
though in a case not dissimilar the writ
of habeas corpus was issued out in favor
of another British subject and was dis-
obeyed by direction of the President.

The British Government have candid-
ly conceded, in the remonstrance before
me, that even in this country, so remark-

able for so long an enjoyment by its peo-
ple of the highest immunities of personal
freedom, war, and especially civil war,
cannot be conducted exclusively in the
forms and with the dilatory remedies
provided by municipal laws which are ad-
equiate to the preservation of public order
in a time of peace. Treason always op-
erates, it is possible by surprise, and pruden-
ce and humanity therefore equally require
that violence conceded in secret shall be
prevented, if practicable, by unusual and
vigorous precautions. I am fully aware of
the inconveniences which result from the
practice of such precaution, embarrassing
communities in social life, and affecting
perhaps trade and intercourse with foreign
nations. But the American people, after
having tried in every way to avert civil
war, have accepted it at last as a stern ne-
cessity. The chief interest, while it
lasts is not the enjoyments of society, or
the profits of trade, but the saving of the
national life. That life saved, all the
other blessings which attend it will epide-
mically return with greater assurance than
ever before. The safety of the whole peo-
ple has become, in the present emergen-
cy, the supreme law, and so long as the
danger shall exist, all classes of society,
equally the denizen and the citizen all
cheerfully acquiesce in the measures
which that law prescribes.

The Government does not question the
learning of the legal advisers of the Brit-
ish Crown, or the justice of the defense
which her Majesty prays to them. Nev-
ertheless, the British Government will
hardly expect that the President will ac-
cept their explanation of the Constitution
of the United States, especially when the
Constitution thus expounded, would leave
upon him the sole executive responsibility
of suppressing the existing insurrec-
tion, while it would transfer to Congress
the most material and indispensable power
to be employed for that purpose. Moreover, these explanations find no
support in the letter, much less in the
spirit of the Constitution itself. He must
be allowed, therefore, to prefer and be
governed by the view of our organic
national law, which, while it would enable
him to execute his great trust with com-
plete success, receives the sanction of the
highest authorities in our own country,
and is sustained by the general consent
of the people for whom alone the Constitu-
tion was established.

I avail myself of this opportunity to of-
fer to your lordship a renewed assurance
of my very high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The Right Hon. Lord Lyons, &c.

Gen. Lane—His Proclamation
and Order.

Proclamation to the People of Western
Missouri, now Occupied by the Kansas
Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS KANSAS BRIGADE,
West Point, Sept. 19, 1861.

The commanding General has learned
with deep regret that unwarrantable ex-
cesses have been committed upon your
property by persons professing to belong
to the United States Army, and that a
portion of you have gathered in armed
bands ostensibly for the simple purpose
of protecting yourselves against unwarrant-
ed depredation. If this be true—if those
of you thus gathered be not really traitors
—if your real object in thus gathering
is not in fact for the purpose of fighting
your country and its Government—then
you and I come to an immediate under-
standing.

I am in your State in command of a
large force, daily increasing of United
States troops, regularly mustered into
service and sworn to obey the rules and
articles of war which you, through your
representatives, helped to make. We are
soldiers, not thieves or plunderers, or ja-
hawkers. We have entered the army to
fight for a peace—to put down a rebel-
lion—to cause the Stars and Stripes—our
flag as well as ours, once more to float
every foot of American soil. This is our
sole purpose. And when this has been
accomplished in your section we will take
up our departure for fresh scenes, where
the vigor of our army may be seen and
felt. Until then we remain.

Do you wish peace? Protection to
your lives and property—the safety of
your wives and little ones? Do you de-
sire to avert from your midst the horrors
of civil war? Do you ask that your neigh-
borhood may not be the theater of battle
—your men hiding—your houses desolate—
your fields devastated? If you wish these
blessings, listen to and take my advice.

Let every man in arms return